



Serving Montana... Rosanne Carlile

Service: Senior Corps/RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program), Great Falls

Three Words that describe Rosanne:

⚙ **Giving**

⚙ **Kind**

⚙ **Trustful**



Rosanne's Service Story: Since joining Montana's RSVP program in Great Falls in 2007, Rosanne has volunteered at 17 sites, logging 1,400 hours of service! Through RSVP she helps fill boxes at the local food bank, calls "Bingo" at the senior center, and works with an organization that helps children with challenges. She made a point to visit with an elderly neighbor, over a span of nearly 2 years, until the neighbor passed away. The neighbor always thanked her for listening and keeping confidences. Through RSVP, Rosanne also travelled to Mississippi and helped rebuild houses after hurricane Katrina.

Making a Difference: In October 2008, Rosanne founded a diaper donation program for low-income families. She knew there was a need in her community and as she told us, you can't get diapers at the food bank. She calls her program "*Little Angels Dried Bottoms*". Today, her program provides diapers for 95 infants in the community. Each family receives 20 diapers a month and she also gives them coupons. The diaper donations are coordinated primarily through local churches and service clubs, and the program is always in need of contributions to help more babies and families. Rosanne is willing to help others start a program in their community.

Rosanne tells the story of a father who had just received diapers for the month, but called her, in tears, to say he was laid off from his job and would need more diapers that month for his child. Rosanne told him to come by and pick up more diapers, and when he arrived he was so thankful for the extra help, that he handed her (probably) all of the money he could gather at that time – a dollar in change. She says he is an example of how appreciative people are; he was so proud to be able to give something back.

"Volunteerism" ...in Rosanne's words: Volunteer. Start by helping neighbors. Elderly neighbors often want visitors and someone to talk to and someone who will just listen. For seniors who want to be more active, there are many senior programs and many involve helping children. Seniors can be mentors and teach a child how to build something and that kind of help, the child will cherish for the rest of their lives. I have always wanted to help others. My family faced rough times when I was

young and I remember one Christmas there was not going to be a Christmas, but Santa Claus came and I later came to realize that the people in the community made that happen. They gave my family so much happiness that Christmas Day. Volunteers can make such a difference.

The Governor's Office of Community Service and the Montana Commission on Community Service greatly appreciates Rosanne's contribution to her community.

Thank you to Shelia Stone for letting us know about Rosanne!

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